

We claim:

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1. A coated substrate comprising a strippable intermediate coating atop the substrate, and a strip agent-permeable coating atop the intermediate coating, wherein the strip agent-permeable coating is less strippable and more durable than the intermediate coating.
  2. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a floor.
  3. A coated substrate according to claim 2, wherein the substrate comprises a resilient flooring material.
  4. A coated substrate according to claim 3, wherein the substrate comprises a vinyl or vinyl composite tile.
  5. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a wall, ceiling, label, emblem, sign or vehicle.
  6. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating comprises a metal-catalyzed acrylic finish.
  7. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating has a strippability rating of 6 or more on a 7 point scale, corresponding to at least partial strip with softened finish in all areas, using a test strip agent made using a 25% water solution of a concentrate that contained 59% softened water, 6% sodium xylene sulfonate, 4.5% potassium hydroxide, 10% monoethanolamine, 0.2% tetrasodium EDTA, 10% ethylene glycol phenyl ether and 0.05% fluorosurfactant, and a 10 minute standing time.
  8. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating has a thickness of about 5 to about 38 micrometers.
  9. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat comprises a polymerized material.
  10. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat comprised a one-part photopolymerizable material.
  11. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat comprised a UV curable material.
  12. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat comprises an acrylate, urethane or acrylated urethane.
  13. A coated substrate according to claim 12, wherein the topcoat comprises an aromatic urethane.

14. A coated substrate according to claim 12, wherein the topcoat comprises an aliphatic polyester urethane.
15. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat is not metal crosslinked.
16. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat has a strippability rating of 4 or less on a 7 point scale, corresponding to no more than severe chemical attack on the topcoat and the onset of stripping, using a test strip agent made using a 25% water solution of a concentrate that contained 59% softened water, 6% sodium xylene sulfonate, 4.5% potassium hydroxide, 10% monoethanolamine, 0.2% tetrasodium EDTA, 10% ethylene glycol phenyl ether and 0.05% fluorosurfactant, and a 10 minute standing time.
17. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat has a thickness of about 5 to about 38 micrometers.
18. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating or topcoat comprise two or more different layers of materials.
19. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a floor and the strip agent-permeable coating comprises a UV curable finish.
20. A strippable laminate finish kit, comprising one or more containers of a strippable intermediate coating and a strip agent-permeable topcoat, wherein the topcoat is less strippable than the intermediate coating.
21. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, further comprising a strip agent.
22. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises a one-part photopolymerizable material.
23. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises a UV curable material.
24. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises an acrylate, urethane or acrylated urethane.
25. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises an aromatic urethane.
26. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises an aliphatic polyester urethane.
27. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein:
- a) the intermediate coating has a strippability rating of 6 or more on a 7 point scale, corresponding to at least partial strip with softened finish in all areas, and

b) the topcoat has a strippability rating of 4 or less on a 7 point scale, corresponding to no more than severe chemical attack on the topcoat and the onset of stripping, using a test strip agent made using a 25% water solution of a concentrate that contained 59% softened water, 6% sodium xylene sulfonate, 4.5% potassium hydroxide, 10% monoethanolamine, 0.2% tetrasodium EDTA, 10% ethylene glycol phenyl ether and 0.05% fluorosurfactant, and a 10 minute standing time.

28. A strip agent concentrate containing a polar solvent that is denser than water, and a sufficiently low level of cosolvent or surfactant so that upon mixing with water a pseudo-stable aqueous dispersion forms which will phase-separate following application to a surface.

29. A strip agent concentrate according to claim 28, wherein the polar solvent comprises a phenyl alcohol.

30. A strip agent concentrate according to claim 29, wherein the polar solvent comprises benzyl alcohol.

31. A method for applying a finish to a substrate, comprising:

- a) applying to the substrate a strippable intermediate coating;
- b) allowing the intermediate coating to dry or harden; and
- c) applying a strip agent-permeable topcoat to the intermediate coating, wherein the topcoat is less strippable and more durable than the intermediate coating.

32. A method according to claim 31, wherein the topcoat is UV cured.

33. A method according to claim 31, wherein the intermediate coating is applied in two or more coats.

34. A method according to claim 31, wherein the topcoat is applied in two or more coats.

35. A method according to claim 34, wherein each of said two or more coats is UV cured before application of any further coat.

36. A method for removing a finish from a substrate, comprising:

- a) applying a strip agent to a laminate finish comprising a strip agent-permeable coating atop a strippable intermediate coating atop a substrate, wherein the strip agent-permeable coating is less strippable and more durable than the intermediate coating;
- b) allowing the strip agent to permeate through the topcoat to attack the intermediate layer; and
- c) removing the intermediate layer and topcoat without removing substantial portions of the underlying substrate.

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